(b) and (c) As the National Common Minimum Programme mandates targeting all subsidies sharply at the poor and truly needy like the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour and urban poor, consultations were held with various stakeholders for evolving a consensus on this issue. Decision on the modalities of operationalising the same has not yet been made.

Loans to Students for higher education

†1517 SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed certain annual amount for providing loans to students for higher education;

(b) if so, the amount fixed for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 separately;

(c) the amount actually provided to the students out of the same; and

(d) the loan amount out of above turned as NPA during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by IBA, no annual targets are fixed for education loans.

(c) As reported by RBI the details of education loan provided by scheduled commercial banks for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Education loan (Outstanding)
2002-03	3052.78
2003-04	4393.40
2004-05	6694.33

(d) As reported by RBI, NPA data for education loan is not captured separately.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.